

Third Sunday in Lent
March 23, 2025

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship

God is our hiding place.

God will keep us in times of trouble.

Let us be glad in the Lord, and rejoice.

Let us shout for joy and praise God's name in song!

*Prayer of Invocation

Robert Browning (1812-89)

My God, my God, let me for once look on Thee

As though nothing else existed, we alone!

And as creation crumbles, my soul's spark

Expands till I can say—Even for myself

I need Thee and I feel Thee and I love Thee.

*Hymn 600 (red)

If You Will Only Let God Guide You

A Lenten Nail Prayer of Confession

This is love.

Jesus, Lamb of God, when You walked this earth You did not consider heavenly equality, though that was Yours to choose, but took the role of servant, and in humility and obedience allowed the rough nails of our sins to be hammered into Your flesh for the sake of our salvation. This is a mystery beyond our comprehension. And so it is that we acknowledge You Lord of all, to the glory of God the Father, Son, and Spirit.

Period of Silent Confession

Your love, poured into the heart of Jesus

Who endured the nails of our sin,

Defeated death to rise again

And causes our hearts to sing

Hallelujah!

Assurance of Pardon

Your word reveals to us a simple truth that sin is defeated and we can become the people we were always meant to be, by Your grace through Jesus Christ.

*Congregational Response

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.

World without end. Amen, Amen.

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

Children's Time

*Hymn 206 (red)

There Is a Redeemer

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 6:1,8

Anthem

Lonesome Valley

Prayer of Illumination

New Testament Lesson

2 Corinthians 13:5-9

Sermon

God of Mystery

Rev. John Earl

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*Affirmation of Faith

Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;

In Him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible.

All things have been created through Him and for Him. He Himself is before all thing, and in Him all things hold together.

He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that He might come to have first place in everything.

For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him God was placed to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of His cross.

Prayers of the People followed by The Lord's Prayer

Call for the Offering

Offertory

*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Season of Lent
First Presbyterian Church
Rockingham, North Carolina

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn 385 (red)

Near the Cross

*Benediction followed by Choral Response

*Postlude

*Please stand, as able

Prayer Concerns: Steve Allen, stepfather of Todd Shepherd; David Beggs, friend of Chris Shepherd; Matt DeMay, son of Merrie Dawkins; Alexander Elliott, grandson of Tommy Wilson; Robert Hilton, son of Susan Morgan; Stephen Neal; Art and Margaret Thompson; Cheyenne Thompson, friend of Michele Weatherly; Kennette Watkins, daughter-in-law of Neal and Trudy Watkins

Flowers provided by Todd and Misty Barnes in loving memory of Todd's father, Bill Barnes.

Youth meets today at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

We will be filling bags with snacks for Backpack Pals this Tuesday at 5:00pm. Meet us at their warehouse (10 Bridges Street in Hamlet) and join the fun!

Online giving portal - <https://www.eservicepayments.com> or scan this QR code with your phone's camera.

Website - Rockinghamfpc.org

CCLI #22165601, 22165625



Hard as Nails - "What I Believe About God"

The nails that held Jesus to the cross are a symbol of Lent. The season of Lent is a time to evaluate behavior and beliefs. It is a time for admitting failures and faults. Lent is a time to begin again. Lent gives us time to pause and take stock. Am I becoming the kind of person I want to become? Do I stand for something I can be proud of? What can I do to help affirm our uniqueness here at First? Above all, Lent is a time to affirm God's forgiving love and a time for hope.

O God, you know what is in our hearts and what is in our thoughts. Help us to examine our lives during this Lenten season and to know that you always forgive the things we do wrong.

When you first enter into the sanctuary you will be asked to take a nail, carry it into worship and to place it in the communion cup holder where you sit. Leave it there for the remaining Lenten days. At any time during the worship service you may desire to hold the nail in your hands. It is particularly appropriate during the Lenten prayers and particularly our time of Silent Confession.

You may desire to carry a small nail in your pocket during the season of Lent reminding you of your daily sins. In your home you may desire to use a nail as a way to discuss

- Difficult things you face at this time in your life
- The forgiveness which needs to be offered but which is hard
- Areas of physical, mental and spiritual pain which are constant

Scriptural connections: Ezekiel 18: 30-32 Matthew 3: 1-4 Luke 7: 44-50